

# "For a nuclear weapons free world"

## Introduction

1. In May, G7 leaders will walk across the remains of hundreds of thousands killed in the first wartime atomic flash in 1945. Since 1945 the Hibakusha have worked to share their stories in the hope that no one should ever live through such a catastrophe again. **The G7 leaders must take advantage of their time in Hiroshima to hear directly from Hibakusha and acknowledge the harm to people and the environment caused by the use of nuclear weapons.** They should pay tribute at the Cenotaph and visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.
2. Nuclear weapons are the most destructive, inhumane, and indiscriminate weapons ever created, both in the scale of the devastation they cause, and in their uniquely persistent, genetically damaging radioactive legacy. Yet the blast and radiation effects of nuclear weapons are dwarfed by the environmental impacts of even a limited nuclear conflict. Urban explosions of 250 nuclear weapons of 100kT explosive power would likely kill over 125 million people in a matter of hours; the aftereffects of lofted soot, however, would starve over 2 billion people within a year.<sup>1</sup>
3. The general illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons was affirmed by the International Court of Justice (1996) and reinforced by the Human Rights Committee (2018). This has been codified by the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017). The use of nuclear weapons could also be considered a war crime under the Rome Statute.

## G7 commitments on nuclear weapons

4. The global catastrophic risk of nuclear weapons is the reason five of the nine nuclear-armed states affirmed “that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”, echoed by G7 leaders in the [Elmau Communiqué](#).
5. States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) citing “increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric,” issued a consensus [declaration](#) that “...any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. We condemn unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances.”
6. Escalating nuclear threats were addressed during the recent nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, when 147 parties [noted](#) “no State, group of States, or indeed the international humanitarian system as a whole, could respond to the immediate humanitarian emergency that a nuclear weapon detonation would cause”.
7. G20 leaders meeting in Bali in November 2022 [said](#) “It is essential to uphold international law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. This includes defending all the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and adhering to international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians and

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<sup>1</sup> Xia, Lili, Alan Robock, Kim Scherrer, Cheryl S. Harrison, Benjamin Leon Bodirsky, Isabelle Weindl, Jonas Jägermeyr, Charles G. Bardeen, Owen B. Toon, and Ryan Heneghan. ‘Global Food Insecurity and Famine from Reduced Crop, Marine Fishery and Livestock Production Due to Climate Disruption from Nuclear War Soot Injection’. *Nature Food* 3, no. 8 (August 2022): 586–96. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-022-00573-0>.

infrastructure in armed conflicts. The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible.”

8. Meeting in Hiroshima, and following on the Bali declaration, **G7 leaders must unequivocally condemn any and all threats to use nuclear weapons.**

## Current issues and challenges

### Nuclear risk

9. The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine and repeated nuclear weapon threats have put the world at risk. Increasing tensions between North Korea, South Korea and the US over Pyongyang’s growing nuclear capabilities, and reprocessing activities, including in Japan and China, have increased concerns. Strains in US, Japanese, South Korean and Philippines relationships with China add escalation risks with potentially global catastrophic consequences.
10. **G7 leaders meeting in Hiroshima should seize the opportunity to announce strategies of risk reduction, de-escalation, and disarmament.** These include commitments not to introduce nuclear weapons into a conflict, not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons at any time, ending any activities construed as encouraging, inducing, or supporting the use of nuclear weapons, and adopting security strategies and practices which do not rely on nuclear weapons. Deploying nuclear weapons into the territory of other countries also raises risks and proliferation concerns. Ultimately, these risks can only be prevented by eliminating nuclear arsenals. **G7 leaders should take immediate steps to reduce nuclear risk.**

### Nuclear disarmament

11. Despite a commitment in the first UN General Assembly Resolution to abolish nuclear arsenals, [SIPRI](#) reports 12,705 warheads at the start of 2022, with numbers expected to increase for the first time in decades.
12. The TPNW provides a legal norm regarding nuclear weapons which none of the nuclear weapon states, de jure or de facto, have yet chosen to embrace. The TPNW, however, provides a normative-legal-diplomatic infrastructure in which to advance rhetorical commitments to achieving a world without nuclear weapons. The humanitarian underpinnings of the TPNW and continued scientific research on the consequences of nuclear weapons use discussed during treaty related meetings are sufficient reasons for G7 states to proactively engage. **G7 leaders should commit to working cooperatively and supportively with TPNW states parties and attend meetings of states parties to the treaty.**
13. Nuclear winter represents a clear and present danger, in which the use of barely 3% of global nuclear arsenals could kill hundreds of millions, while total nuclear war is likely to kill over 5 billion people within a year.<sup>2</sup> This should be sufficient reason to commence negotiations for the prompt elimination of the world’s nuclear weapons. Setting a deadline for the elimination of nuclear arsenals provides impetus to get the job done. **The G7 should use the opportunity of this Hiroshima Summit to issue a plan for urgent negotiations to eliminate all nuclear weapons no later than 2045, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their first use.**

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

14. Any negotiations should build on previous agreements. Support for existing nuclear weapon free zone treaties, and the ratification of additional protocols where those are still pending are stabilising efforts. Additionally, it is urgent that the US and Russia begin negotiations on the New START treaty, and the summit provides an opportunity to **commit to end new nuclear weapon development and production and support negotiations on a follow-on to the New START treaty.**

## Reallocate resources currently spent on nuclear arsenals

15. In 2022, the G7 underlined “that the highest standards of nuclear safety and security are important to all countries and their respective publics.” G7 leaders must acknowledge that nuclear weapons create victims and harm the environment in the process of uranium mining, development, manufacturing, testing, maintenance, and disposal of nuclear materials.
16. Spending to increase the role, number, and capabilities of nuclear arsenals is estimated at more than \$157,000 per minute.<sup>3</sup> These funds could be better applied to nuclear disarmament, public health, climate protection, and to offset the long-term costs of environmental remediation and victim assistance. Impacted communities must be meaningfully included in victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation processes. Currently only the TPNW offers a multilateral approach to addressing the needs of victims and remediating affected environments. **G7 leaders should work cooperatively with states parties to the TPNW to provide for victim assistance and environmental remediation, including by redirecting resources towards these ends.**

## Intersectional approaches to nuclear disarmament

17. A significant number of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty states parties recognised “the intersections of race, gender, economic status, geography, nationality, and other factors must be taken into account as risk-multiplying factors” in relation to nuclear weapons and “for women and other underrepresented groups, there must not only be a seat at the table, but also real opportunities to shape conversations, policies, and outcomes.” **G7 countries can demonstrate leadership in this area by engaging with and promoting intersectional analysis of nuclear weapons and the structures of violence that sustain them.**
18. Young people face numerous crises: a harrowing climate emergency, a still-ongoing pandemic, legacies of nuclear testing and an increased threat of nuclear warfare, as well as everyday insecurity from violent crime, armed conflict, and militarised policing. The UN Secretary-General’s study on disarmament and non-proliferation education asserted that disarmament education is not just education about disarmament but, most crucially, education for disarmament. **G7 leaders must recognise the value of disarmament education by redirecting resources, including to the Youth Leader Fund for a world without nuclear weapons, to provide funding for youth and disarmament education.**

## Summary of Recommendations

19. In choosing to hold the summit in Hiroshima, Japan’s Prime Minister Fumio Kishida urged, “G7 leaders to reaffirm their recognition of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and their commitment to their abolition.” We expect the leaders’ summit to show ambition and responsibility to reduce threats posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons. We

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<sup>3</sup> Alicia Sanders-Zakre and Susi Snyder. ‘Squandered: 2021 Global Nuclear Weapons Spending’. Geneva, Switzerland: ICAN, 14 June 2022. [https://www.icanw.org/squandered\\_2021\\_global\\_nuclear\\_weapons\\_spending\\_report](https://www.icanw.org/squandered_2021_global_nuclear_weapons_spending_report).

urge G7 leaders to meet with atomic bomb survivors while in Hiroshima and to incorporate commitments to the following in their final communique:

- Hearing directly from Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) in Hiroshima, acknowledge the harm to people and the environment caused by using nuclear weapons;
- Unequivocally condemn any and all threats to use nuclear weapons and disavow all options to resort to nuclear weapons in conflict;
- Begin urgent negotiations to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons before 2045, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their first use;
- Work cooperatively with states parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons including by attending Meetings of States Parties to the treaty and providing for victim assistance and environmental remediation, including by redirecting resources towards these ends;
- End nuclear weapon development and production, and support negotiations on a follow-on to the New START treaty.
- Take immediate steps to reduce nuclear risks, including by ending activities construed as encouraging, inducing, or supporting the possession or use of nuclear weapons, committing not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons at any time and ending all nuclear sharing practices;
- Recognise the value of disarmament education by redirecting resources to provide funding for youth and disarmament education, and;
- Continue addressing nuclear disarmament in future G7 Summits.

The C7 Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament was coordinated by Susi Snyder (ICAN) and Sumiko Hatakeyama (Peace Boat) and included representatives from the following organisations, (listed for identification purposes only).

|                                                            |                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Africa for Education and Development                       | JIIIPRESS                                                                                |
| African Youth4TPNW                                         | Kakuwaka Hiroshima                                                                       |
| AIDD and XR Peace                                          | KNOW NUKES TOKYO                                                                         |
| ANT-Hiroshima                                              | Kyodo News                                                                               |
| Arms Control Association                                   | Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons (LUEHW)                                        |
| Asahi Shimbun                                              | Life savors                                                                              |
| Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament                           | Manchester City Council / Mayors for Peace+Nuclear Free Local Authorities                |
| CARE International Japan                                   | Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World                                               |
| Center for International and Strategic Studies             | Mayors for Peace                                                                         |
| Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (CSER)            | Mayors for Peace- France                                                                 |
| Chugoku News Paper,Reporter                                | Mines Action Canada                                                                      |
| Circular In-finity                                         | Most At Risk Population's Society in Uganda (MARPS In Uganda)                            |
| Citizens' Climate Lobby                                    | N Square Innovators Network                                                              |
| Citizens' Nuclear Information Center                       | Nagasaki University Japan                                                                |
| Citizens' Commission on Nuclear Energy (CCNE)              | NAGOYA university                                                                        |
| Comitato Senzatolica                                       | Nei til Atomvåpen                                                                        |
| Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety                      | Nuclear Age Peace Foundation                                                             |
| CYM Education Foundation                                   | Nuclear Information Service                                                              |
| EDDHIAC INTERNATIONAL                                      | Nuclear Threat Initiative                                                                |
| European Union, University of Calabar                      | NuclearBan.US                                                                            |
| FOR Germany and IFOR                                       | Open Society Foundations                                                                 |
| Foreign Policy for America                                 | PARC                                                                                     |
| Forum Eine Welt                                            | Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament                           |
| Forum for Nation Building Nepal                            | Pathways To Peace                                                                        |
| Geneva Centre for Security Policy                          | Pax Christi International (PCI)                                                          |
| Global Zero                                                | Pax Christi Korea (PCK)                                                                  |
| HIDANKYO                                                   | PEAC Institute                                                                           |
| Hidankyo/Hibakusha Organization of Japan                   | Peace Action                                                                             |
| Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (HANWA)   | Peace Boat                                                                               |
| Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition(HANWA)    | Peace Depot                                                                              |
| Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition                           | Peace Platform                                                                           |
| Hiroshima NPO Center                                       | People for Nuclear Disarmament                                                           |
| Human Rights Now                                           | Peoples Federation for National Peace and Development (PEFENAP)                          |
| ICAN                                                       | Pfizer                                                                                   |
| idp                                                        | Physicians for Social Responsibility                                                     |
| INFID                                                      | PIANGO                                                                                   |
| International Center for Research on Women                 | Progressive Democrats Association of Ghana                                               |
| International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)          | Pugwash Japan                                                                            |
| International Peace Bureau (IPB)                           | Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour le Développement du Tonkpi (ROSCIDET) |
| International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War | Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo                                                             |
| IPSIA NGO and GCAP Italy                                   | Rotary Club international Peace                                                          |
| JACES                                                      | SDGs Japan                                                                               |
| JANIC                                                      | SDSN Youth Korea                                                                         |
| Japan Congress against A- and H- Bombs (GENSUIKIN)         | Soka Gakkai International (SGI)                                                          |
| Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)            |                                                                                          |
| Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability                    |                                                                                          |

Soroptimist International  
Sustainable Development Solutions Network –  
Korea  
Technology for Life  
The Climate Reality Project Japan  
The Gender Security Project  
The Resilient40  
Tripla Difesa Onlus  
UN House Scotland  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
UNISC International  
United Nations Association Scotland  
United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous  
Issues (UNPFII)  
UNYA-ROK  
Western States Legal Foundation  
Wings for Amazon Project  
Women Capacity and Advocacy Initiative

Women Cross DMZ  
Women's International League for Peace and  
Freedom  
World Bank  
World Beyond War  
World Friendship Center  
World Vision Japan  
Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF)  
Tokyo  
Youngsolwara  
Youth For TPNW  
Youth Fusion – Abolition 2000 Network  
Zona Libre  
世界女性会議岡山連絡会  
個人  
株式会社オシンデック  
視覚障害者団体Blindクリエイター【お好みーズ】